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PRAYER FOR ADVENT

It was night when the Angel of the Lord brought to the shepherds of Bethlehem the good news of the Birth of the Savior of the world; it was night when the heavenly hosts sang their glorious hymn of praise to God and peace on earth. But there was no night in the hearts of those lowly shepherds after they had heard the stirring message from on high. Around them was darkness; but within them there shone a piercing light. God had commanded "the light to shine out of darkness," and it shone in the hearts of the shepherds "to give the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor 4:6)

It is night in the world today at the beginning of the Nativity Fast, Nov. 15/28 as we hear once again the news of the Birth of the God-Man.

About us there is darkness – the darkness of strife, the darkness of stress, the darkness of fear, the darkness of uncertainty. The blackness of greed and hate envelopes the world. Is there a light to show us where we may find comfort and hope?

There is a Light for us today – a light that pierces the thick gloom of sin, a light that points the way to the one and only source of lasting solace in this world. It is the Light that comes again at Christmas – the Nativity – the Light that takes fear out of our hearts and gives us unshakable hope, the light that changes hate into love. It is the Light of the world. It is "a burning and a shining light." John 5:35. Let us rejoice in it and pray for it. Add this prayer to your daily prayers.

"O CHRIST, THE TRUE LIGHT, WHO DOES ENLIGHTEN AND SANCTIFY EVERY PERSON THAT COMES INTO THE WORLD, LET THE LIGHT OF YOUR COUNTENANCE BE MARKED UPON US, THAT IN IT WE MAY SEE THE LIGHT UNAPPROACHABLE; AND DIRECT OUR STEPS IN THY COMMANDMENTS, AT THE PRAYERS OF THINE UNDEFILED MOTHER AND OF ALL THE SAINTS. AMEN."

Steal away to some quiet corner
Steal away for just awhile,
It heals the body, soul and spirit
And gives a true and happy smile.

PRESENTATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

On November 21/December 4 we mark the Holy Day of the Presentation or Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple. It is one of the twelve major Holy Days on the Orthodox Church Calendar.

There is no mention made in the Bible for this day; but information about it are found in the apocryphal writings, especially in the "Gospel of Mary" and "The Protoevangelion."

This day celebrates the day her saintly and righteous parents, Joachim and Anna, brought her to the temple as a three-year-old child to consecrate Her to the Lord, to fulfill the vow they had made.

The plans for the day were impressive. Joachim invited all of his relatives to Nazareth and many young girls were called to lead the procession to Jerusalem with lighted candles. Following the young girls in the procession came the Mother of God dressed in her finest and then her family, friends and strangers who had gathered out of curiosity to see this impressive sight.

When the procession approached the door of the temple, Zacharias, the high priest, and the other priests at the temple came out to greet him. Zacharias picked up the child and took her to the Holy of Holies in the temple. This was the most sacred area of the temple and only the high priest could enter it and that only once a year. The people murmured and were amazed by this breach of law. Mary remained in the temple until she was 12 years old. She lived in a prayerful atmosphere and much of their time was spent reading Holy Writings preparing her for her future work. This was part of God's plan.

ST. CATHERINE

When we read the story about the life of St. Catherine Nov.25/Dec. 7, it is easy to see why she was considered to be the patron saint of young unmarried girls and why her feast was acknowledged in the Carpathians by special evening socials.

St. Catherine was a rich and noble girl who lived in Alexandria, Egypt. She was well educated and won fame by holding public discussions concerning Christianity. She debated many champions of paganism and won getting their dislike. They considered her stubborn while the Christians gloried in her steadfastness in the Faith.

She refused to marry Maximus Daza, who was a pagan and the insult to him plus her work and Christian life led the authorities to send her into exile. She returned unchanged and was tortured until she died in 310. Her body was later taken to Mt. Sinai, where a monastery was built in the third century and expanded greatly by Emperor Justinian a century later.

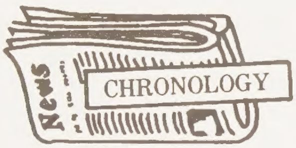
St. Catherine's Orthodox Monastery was built in such a way that it protects the Burning Bush of Moses, which can still be seen nestling under the walls of the church. It is also close to the mountain where the Ten Commandments were given.

One of the reasons why it has been spared from destruction all these centuries is that it is of importance to the three main faiths of the region: Christianity, Judaism, Muslim. In fact, it is the only working Christian monastery which has a mosque within its walls. It was built for the local bedouins who rely on the monastery for their existence and livelihood. It is recorded that Mohammed extended his personal protection over the monastery in gratitude for the kindness and generosity of the monks towards him.

This hospitality is now being strained as a new road has been built to the monastery, bringing hoards of people. Its isolation has been invaded by an airfield

(Continued on Page 39, Col. 1)

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NOVEMBER 1996

ADD Fr. Nicholas Fedetz to the list of 50th year anniversary graduates of our seminaries given in the September issue. Of the 11 who graduated that year, 7 were sons of priest pioneers, 5 are still parish priests, 10 claim roots in Pennsylvania. The other information is the same.

DIED: Matushka Anna Petretzky on September 9 in Tennessee.

DIED: Matushka Mary Miller on September 20 in Cleveland, Ohio.

PROMISE KEEPERS is an evangelical-style men's ministry organization which encourages men to live an upright life. The organization is open to all Christian men. The US bishop's committee of the Catholic Church suggest that Catholic pastors be "proactive" regarding men's ministry and not just "reactive to what Promise Keepers is offering."

RUSSIA FOR JESUS is an Orthodox organization fostering cultural exchange between American and Russian Orthodox artists. Orthodox of all jurisdictions are invited to join. The need for hosts for Russian artists' speakers is needed. For more info, write: Dana and Sue Talley, 159-34 Riverside Drive West, Apt. 2K, New York, NY 10032-1020.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES are to be discouraged to the popular Marian site in Bosnia-Herzegovnia. A report by local bishops stated that after much study it could not confirm that supernatural apparitions were occurring at Medjugorje.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ORTHODOXY are answered on about 150 cassette tapes available free from Orthodox Christian Cassettes, 2929 N. 56th St., Box 493, Springdale, AK 72762.

ENJOY A RETREAT IN FLORIDA IN FEBRUARY and learn about Orthodox missions at the same time. The 8th annual retreat of the Orthodox Christian Mission, PO Box 4319, St. Augustine, FL 32085 will be held from March 7-9, 1997 in Switzerland, FL.

THE NUMBER OF MONASTERIES IS GROWING. The Greek Archdiocese now has 10 in the US. The latest is a women's monastery, which is located near Hazleton, PA. It has five nuns from Greece and Canada.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY, the Supreme Court has a non-Protestant majority. Three of its justices are Roman Catholic and two are Jewish.

RECORDED CHRISTMAS MUSIC is available from: Musica Russica, 27 Willow Lane, Dept. C, Madison, CT 06443. A catalog of Orthodox top-rated CDs and cassettes is also available. To order call 1-800-326-3132 or Fax 203-421-3132.

ORTHODOX YOUTH around the world will celebrate The World Day of Orthodox Youth on February 2/15 in many parishes around the globe.

TWENTY-NINE CHOIRS from 13 countries competed at the 15th International Festival of Orthodox Church Music in Hajnowka, Poland this past spring. For more info on coming festivals or a recording "Praise God All Ye Nations", contact Paul Ziolo, c/o Wyzsze Prawoslawne Seminarium Duchowne, ul. Paryska 27, 03-945 Warsaw, Poland.

RUSSIAN PROVERB "A fortune is not always a friend; but a friend is always a fortune."

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Order The Orthodox Herald now for gifts for family and friends.

ACCORDING TO FILES OF THE KGB recently opened, it was disclosed that over 200,000 bishops, priests and religious of the Orthodox Church were tortured and murdered under Stalin. Many of the priests after being tortured and killed were hung from the royal doors of the ikonostasis in their churches.

LAWS IN EGYPT prohibit Christian churches and mosques from being close to each other. It is alleged that mosques are being built close to existing churches so that the church then has to be torn down.

THE SAME RULES OF MALPRACTICE apply to clergy as well as other professionals who offer counseling such as psychiatrists and social workers according to a ruling of an appeal court.

ORTHODOX WEB SITES. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a listing. Would appreciate any list you have to add to ours. Send to The Orthodox Herald, PO Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621.

EVANGELISTS IN UKRAINE are taking advantage of the poor economic situation to expand their radio and television time. A radio program will be broadcast weekly over a radio network hardwired by the communists into every home in the Ukraine. The twice monthly TV program will be shown on one of the two national channels.

MOVED 2,200 MILES was St. Onufrius Ukrainian Church from Smoky Lake, Alberta to the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa. The church, which was closed in 1965, was located about 70 miles northeast of Edmonton. The 39 feet by 23 feet by 30 feet high church has an ikonostasis and ikons covering the interior. It took measurements taken by lasers and three-dimensional computer drawings, $500,000 and 9 months to complete the move.

INFORMATION on the "holocaust and genocide" is being included in the curricula of many states, especially at the High School level. The Congress of Russian-Americans, PO Box 818, Nyack, NY 10960-0818 would appreciate receiving copies of any programs that are available to you.

VALAAM MONASTERY in northern Russia was presented relics of St. Herman of Alaska who left Valaam Monastery in 1793 to begin missionary work in Alaska. Metropolitan Theodosius also gave some soil from the saints' grave, the oil from the lampada above his relics, water from Spruce Island and an ikon. The cathedral church in Valaam is being restored. Metropolitan Theodosius said: "I pray that the missionary and ascetic zeal of our two Churches may continue to draw new generations into the Kingdom of God.:

•St. Catherine

and a resort, which is being built almost at its entrance. This brings all types of visitors and some have been thieves who have taken advantage of the poor security. St. Catherine's houses the most pre-iconoclasm ikons in the world, 3400 ancient manuscripts in its library and other artifacts which show the almost 2000 year history of the monastery and the surrounding areas.

A campaign to help preserve the monastery, catalogue its contents and support the maintenance of its ancient historical buildings is being launched by Archbishop Damianos of Sinai. For more info write: St. Catherine Foundation, 18 Curzon St., London W1Y 7AD, England.

ETHNIC CHUCKLE

Dorohaya Tyotya Mareea,

Yak tam kolo vas? Toot shitko awright. Yah taper mam flower power. Tak peeshlo.

Me husband ee ya peeshlee shopping for Thanksgiving boh yah was planning invitovatee krayanee doh nas nah tot Amerikanskee praznick.

Me checkovalee noveenkee nah ads ee nashlee deh novee shtor u veleekee shopping center mal best prices. Besides this, first sto customairee will get free turkey – indyuk. Me peeshlee very early noh parking lot was full. Me musheelee parking barz daleko ot shtoryu. Yah beehala doh storyu ee dostala slipsue nah free turkey. Then yah shopovala nah druhee thingsee. Yah kupela, sweet kartoflee, deenyou, stuffing, cranberries, yablockee nah pie, ee druhee vegetablee ee fruitee and cider.

Kolee yah finished shopping yah peeshla nah front of store ee tam bulee takee velekee lines nah checkout. Me husband neh hotchelee stoyatee tak long ee pohabeel mene ee peeshol doh caree. After long time yah checked out ee pushovala me cart nah vonka. Yah bulla taka surprised boh yah nashla takee veliki guard rail ee yah neh mohla bratee cart doh parking lot. Yah dumam what I gotta do? Yah neh leaving full cart tam ee going hladatee caryu. Yah decided to checkatee tam mozhe me staree coming after me. Yah stoyou ee stoyou. Yah chekam ee checkam.

Yah getting taka mad? Then yah dumam yah must take bags ee go doh caree. Yah peeshla doh direction deh yah dumam me parkovalee caru. Yah walking ee walking noh neh mohla find caru. Yah taka tired. Packachee takee heavy. Yah mam twenty-five pound turkey ee shitko druhheh. Yah starting to panicovatee. Yah brala rest ee klalaa packages nah cars that were parked.



America is #1
Thanks to our Veterans

Finally, yah dostala idea ee yah dumam what the heck ee yah starting kretchatee: "Staree, staree, deh tea?" Ohn me neh otveteel. Yah dostalaa madder eeh starting kretchatee u takee voice yak me kretchalee ot sella doh sells kolce yah living in Europee kolo vas. Yah calling: "Yoh hoe, yoh hoe, staree, staree."

Preshla cara alright. Non me relief bull short boh toh cara mala uniform cheloveka. Ohn preshol doh mena ee asked: "I'm a security cop. What's wrong lady? Someone molesting you?"

Yah bulla taka embarrassed. Me bullo tak highmba. Yah tell him me story ee ohn kazhe; "Hop in, lady. I'll help you look."

Me finally nashlee caru ee in it me nashlee me husbandah – fast asleep. Yah neh musyu vam poveestee yakee fight me malee nah way home. Anyhow, kolee me preshlee domu me next door neighbor me poveela to put plastic flower nah radio aerial. ee: "That terrible experience won't happen again."

Budtah zdrovee,
Feeling like turkey,
Hanya.

PRAY THANKS

Many ask: Since God knows our needs even before we ask Him, why should we pray at all (Matt 6:8)? After all, God has already promised to help us if we seek His kingdom and His righteousness (Matt 6:32-33).

We can better understand why prayer is important if we stop and think about how we talk with God. For most of us, when we pray, we tend to emphasize asking God for things and to change bad circumstances, such as illnesses that may strike us or our loved ones.

The Bible does teach us that we are to bring all our requests before God. Yet, that is not the main or only reason we should pray, as Jesus' sample prayer makes clear (Matt 6:9-13).

Jesus, for example, tells us we should hallow God's name in prayer. To hallow is to honor or revere or consider holy.

We honor God by expressing confidence in Him as One who gives us what we need, physically and spiritually. He is the God who will not give a stone to the child who needs bread (Matt 7:9-11).

A most important aspect of prayer, then, is to thank God for what He has already done for us. St. Paul stressed that we should give thanks when we pray. He said: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Phil 4:6).

Many of the Psalms are prayers of thanks and praise. Psalms 107 and 118 begin by saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." We are reminded of this often by the singing of these verses in the Church.

Psalms 146 through 150 are filled with examples of what we should be thankful to God for. And we are instructed in Psalm 100 to "enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise."

Perhaps you are among those who do pray, but wonder if you're truly reaching God. Then, again, you may be curious about prayer but are skeptical about whether it is anything more than expressing human emotion. May the example of the Lord's Prayer, the sample prayer be given closer study.

ALASKA FUND

There are many small villages in Alaska. Many of them have small chapels where laymen services are held in between visits of a priest. The Orthodox Herald goes to these villages as well as to the mission priests. Helping this month are: Helen Allen, John Macenka, Ethel Watlock, Nina Karwatt, Anne Habijanac, Mike Bakaysa, Stephen Bock, Alexandra and Roger Pena on birth of their daughter Annalise on July 9. God grant her many years! Eugene Slutyak in memory of parents John and Helen. Ed Rodusky in memory of Anna Rodusky.

ON BIBLE READING

St. John Chrysostom was known as the Golden Mouthed for the wise, precious words which he spoke. Preserved are many of his sermons. In one he said: "Reading is not enough. We must also study and think about what we read otherwise we shall get no advantage from the reading. A treasure buried in the earth does not show its contents when it is covered and walked on. Someone must first dig the place open, and then go deeper to secure everything buried. Likewise, in the case of the Scriptures, merely reading them will not bring to light all the treasure of good stored in them unless this is followed by deeply searching for the meaning.

"If reading only were enough, St. Philip would not have asked the Eunuch (Acts 8:30) if he understood what he was reading. Furthermore, if reading were enough, Christ would not have told the Jews to search the scriptures. (John 5:39)."

OBSERVATIONS FROM TOUR 1996 (1)

Last year, I made reference to the deportment of the children in the churches which we attended in Presov, Slovakia and Novodavidkovo, Ukraine. There were so many responses, both by mail and phone, concerning this sentence that I decided that this would be the topic of my first observation this year.

This year, we attended Sunday Divine Liturgies in Krynitza, Poland and in Novodavidkovo, Ukraine. What did we notice during the two to three-hour services in these churches?

St. Nicholas Church in Krynitza was being dedicated. There are no pews in this church, just benches along the walls. The church soon became very crowded with people standing shoulder to shoulder. Were there children in the church? Yes. Were we aware of them? No. Those above the age of five or so who came early venerated the icon with the prescribed pokloni (prostrations), then went to light a candle, and went to stand along the front of the church before the first row of adults. Several women came with younger children. They stood with their mothers or were held in their arms. I noticed one woman with three children below the age of five. The middle child, about three, started to whimper. The mother leaned down and softly told her that she must be quiet because this was the church – the house of God. When the baby became restless, she left the church and returned some time later. I saw other parents leave with toddlers, but I didn't hear any noise. They were not allowed and were being taught not to make noise and disturb the celebrants or the worshippers.

The next Sunday we attended the Divine Hours and Divine Liturgy in the large village church. It was a regular service except for the blessing of a processional cross. In this church, they follow a custom which many of us are familiar with. The three to five-year-olds stood in the front of the church where they could observe the service. The pre-teen girls stood leaning on the bookstand of the first pew. The boys had their place in the balcony. The toddlers stood with their mother or father, and we didn't know they were in church until we saw them go up at the end of the services to venerate the new cross.

It was obvious that by expectation and example they were being taught that this was not preschool or day school but the house of God.

When and why did it become the norm in America to bring snacks, coloring books, toys, etc. to church for the children to keep them amused? When did it become acceptable for children to eat in church, walk noisily back and forth on the pews, or kneelers, wander around the church, make noise or have their diapers changed?

What happened to the saying: "Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent; for this is the House of God. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another."?

NATIVITY FAST

On Nov. 14/28 the Nativity Fast begins. It goes by various names: Advent, Filipovka and Pylypivka, among others. Advent is a Latin word for "Coming." Filipovka is St. Philip's Fast, which begins the day after he is commemorated on the Church Calendar.

It is appropriate that St. Philip have a role in setting our course toward Christ. He was the fourth person to be called by Christ. His first action as a disciple was to tell Nathaniel. Several times in the gospels we read about him leading people to Christ. Even after Pentecost, he continued to preach in many areas of Asia and Greece. He was constantly in danger and was finally crucified upside-down on a tree.

WINTER'S GRACE

One of the most serious and powerful facts in human nature is that we are likely to get what we are basically expecting. If we had spent years developing the mental attitude of expecting that things are not going to turn out well, we are likely to get that result. We create a mental condition slanted to an unhappy outcome.

If on the contrary we develop and maintain a mental attitude of faith and expectancy – hoping, dreaming, believing, praying, working – we will create conditions in which every good thing can and will grow. Fill your mind with the positive power of spiritual expectancy and God and His goodwill will flow toward you. "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him." (Psalm 62:5)

MISSION FUND

Copies of "The Herald" go to places other than Alaska to teach and inform about the Orthodox faith. As the churches in East Europe are having more cathechumens we are being asked for at least one copy which will be translated for use with the inquirers. Helping are Helen S. Allen, M. Oseniak, Ethel Watlock, David Halchak, Anne Habijanac, Michael Bakaysa, Ed Rodusky in memory of Anne Rodusky. Eugene Slutyak in memory of parents John and Helen.

Dabs of Thoughts

The title of archpriest dates to the 4th century and was given to a senior priest, who, in certain circumstances, had special responsibilities over other clergy.

The mitred archpriest is given a mitre to wear during services. Protocol governs its wearing or removal during certain parts of the services. For example, it is taken off during the reading of the Gospel and prior to the consecration when a Divine Liturgy is being served.

Our reason for attending Divine Liturgy is not to feel good but to worship God.

They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each could easily, if they allowed themselves, be "in love" with someone else.

"Being in love" first moved them to promise fidelity; this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run – being in love was the explosion that started it.

C S Lewis Mere Christianity

Do not ignore the great symbols in the church and the traditions of the Church. Let them speak to you as they have to others in the past.

The Orthodox Church is in trouble if it cannot agree on fundamental issues of faith.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. Make us glad for the days when You afflicted us, for the years when we saw evil. Let your work be seen by your servants, and your glory by their children; and may the gracious care of the Lord God be ours. Prosper the work of our hands for us! Psalm 90:13-17

Jesus appreciates the goodwill that brings us back to Him every time I fail Him by my sins. Though I consider myself unworthy of Him because I return for my own "selfish" reasons, He is glad that I return. Like the father of the prodigal son, He asks no questions and offers no criticism, but rejoices that I have come back to his house for forgiveness, assistance, and the chance to try again.



EDITORS' NOTES

Another Carpathian Heritage Tour is now memory. Although we have more or less followed the same route the past three years, we always see different things and enjoy new experiences. Perhaps, the richest reward is the new friends which we make. After spending so many days together, it is difficult to accept that we have scattered to all parts of the country. But with God's help we will meet again at St. Tikhon's Monastery in May.

It was hard settling down. Unpacking took a few days and getting adjusted to the time change of seven hours seemed to take forever. Perhaps, the most jarring was getting down to the everyday routine of cooking, washing dishes, cleaning, etc. It was nice having a respite from these responsibilities.

Our Embroidery and Sewing Supplies Project continues. We have received many packets of thread and cloth. We also received letters and calls from women's societies who are making this their project and are collecting these supplies among their members. We have also received supplies from a parish who was having a rummage sale. We are and will be sending these to two women's monasteries in the Ukraine. St. Nicholas in Mukachevo founded in the 11th century and the newly-returned one in Chereveno. This later one was used by the Nazi to house orphans of the war. The monastery was returned to the nuns who now care for those homeless and unwanted.

Although we have made many trips throughout the Carpathian area, we were again struck by the incredible natural beauty of the area reminiscent of Switzerland. There were flowers planted everywhere, making it look cheerful even on gloomy days, which beset us through much of our stay.

The economy is desperate and the morale of the people is low. Some people are near starvation while others are making unjust profits as biznesmene (businessmen). Nurses, doctors, teachers and pensioners have not been paid since February. In the subcarpathian region of the Ukraine, there is concern that there will not be enough gas to provide heat in the winter. To save what little is coming through the lines, there will be no heat until Oct. 1, and there has not been any hot water for several years, even in the best hotels in town.

We will write more details about our tour as the months go by. This month we write about the deportment of the young children in the churches we attended.

Like most tourists, we are so grateful that our home is in the US. This Thanksgiving we will give an extra prayer for God's goodness to us.

The Strogens

IS CONSCIENCE ENOUGH?

You may be one of the many people who say that what one believes is unimportant – that it is really one's conscience that counts, nothing more. Others say that it is doing right that matters. But what is right? What ought we to do? What is our duty as humans?

A person does right when he fulfills the purpose of his life. But what is its purpose? An axe is a good axe when it cuts down trees – that is what it is for. A person is a good person when he does what? What is he good for? Many things are right for one purpose that are all wrong for another.

We cannot really answer any questions involving right and wrong unless we have a creed, a belief about life's final purpose and the meaning of God's Word.

Follow your conscience and you can't go wrong, is a popular saying and claptrap. Many of the most dangerous deeds in history were done by conscientious people. Their conscience was all right but their creed was all wrong.

Your conscience is only an eye which must have light to see with, and your creed is the light by which your conscience sees. Without a creed it will trip you up and break your neck.

On a pitch black night, all people are like blind people, and the person with keen eyes will often be the first to fall behind because he thinks he sees.

A person can do a deadly wrong supposing it's right. He is like the alcoholic who treats his pal to drinks and makes him drunk – he is doing unto others as he would they should do unto him, loving his neighbor as himself. He is apparently acting out the Golden Rule. But the Golden Rule is only guilt without a creed to guide it. Right conscience with a wrong creed can turn human race into a herd of swine helping one another to wallow on a muck

•Kitchen Corner

Keep in tightly closed container until ready to serve. Makes about 6 dozen.

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heap.

When you talk about doing right by following your conscience and have no creed, you may sound sensible. But your behavior can be adrift from God and what He teaches.

HUMILITY vs. SELF-ESTEEM

We read in Luke 18:17: "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall in no way enter there." What did Christ mean by this?

Fashions in values and virtues come and go, but humility has never been a popular one. People have always liked it in others with whom they had to deal, but few have aspired to it at any time. For one thing, it has always been rare enough that most of us do not really know what it is.

Certainly humility is no part of our present culture with its requirements of self-confidence, self-advertisement, and with its goal of high self-esteem, with its accent on the demand for one's rights and the seizing of one's privileges, with its instant and constant inflation of the ego.

So much the harder, then, for people today to reach the state of humility, which is never easy, but which is necessary for those who would enter the eternal Kingdom. As we saw in the quote above, we have been told by Him who is the authority on the subject that we must be as little children if we want to go through that door.

Unfortunately today, we don't even let little children be little children. We shove them into our own rat-races, we drive them from class to class, we offer them our own hangups, we can't wait until they achieve sophistication. Yet that achievement, often as the result of overscheduling, must be at the expense of their openness, their eagerness, their sense of wonder, all of the things that characterize the childlikeness of citizens of the kingdom of God.

CHUCKLE

We were saddened this month to learn of the death of "Someone Else." His passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. He was with us for a long time and did more than his share of work. Whenever there was a job to be done, a meeting to attend, or a class to be taught, one name was always mentioned. Let "Someone Else" do it. Now that "Someone Else" is gone I wonder what our group will do.

When you are asked to help, please remember, we cannot depend on "Someone Else" anymore.



We usually leave the homes of our relatives in Uzhorod loaded down with boxes of cookies to "eat on the bus and plane." We especially appreciate them because we know that there is such a shortage of sugar, shortening and flavorings. Here is a recipe for one type of cookie. The relative who gave us these baked them in a little wood-fed oven in the yard which was shaded by the grapevines. The dough was cooled by placing it in the well, which had been dug by Fr. Basil's grandfather. The nuts were from trees he planted.

Carpathian Poppy Seed Slices

1 cup butter, softened
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/2 cups finely chopped nuts (Almonds are best.)
1/2 cup poppy seed
2 cups flour
1/4 tsp. salt
2 Tbls. sugar

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg, vanilla and cinnamon. Beat two minutes. Stir in flour and salt, gradually. Mix well. Add nuts and poppy seed. Mix well.

Put in cool place for several hours until dough can be handled to shape into rolls. Make 2 rolls about 2 inches in diameter. Roll them in the 2 Tbls. sugar.

Wrap the rolls in wax paper and refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Cut into 1/4 inch slices. Place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake in 325° oven about 20 minutes or until cookies start to brown. Cool on racks.

(Continued on Page 41, Col. 3)

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NOVEMBER 1996

1 Luke 12:2-12
2 Luke 9:9-16
3 **Luke 8:41-56**
4 Luke 12:13-15; 22-31
5 Luke 12:42-48
6 Luke 12:48-59
7 Luke 13:1-9
8 Luke 10:16-21
9 Luke 9:37-43
10 **Luke 10:25-37**
11 Luke 14:12-15
12 Luke 14:25-35
13 Luke 15:1-10
14 Luke 16:1-9
15 Luke 16:15-18; 17:1-4
16 Luke 9:57-62
17 **Luke 12:16-21**
18 Luke 17:20-25
19 Luke 17-26-37
20 Luke 18:15-17
21 Luke 10:38-42
22 Luke 19:12-28
23 Luke 10:19-21
24 **Luke 13:10-17**
25 Luke 19:37-44
26 Luke 19:45-48
27 Luke 20:1-8
28 Luke 20:9-18
29 Luke 20:19-26
30 Luke 12:32-40

BIBLE STUDY

Most of the readings last month and this month are from St. Luke. He is the author of the third gospel and the Book of Acts. We know much about him. Among other things, he was a doctor, an ikonographer, a man of superior literary ability, plus he had a great concern for the ill and the needy. Perhaps the attribute which most endears him to us are the words which St. Paul wrote in his second letter to St. Timothy (2 Tim 4:11): "Only Luke is with me." How often do we hear these words when we call to inquire about a sick or lonely parent or friend? How grateful we are to learn that "Only ______ is with me."

We know that St. Luke accompanied St. Paul in his missionary journeys. We do know that the life of St. Paul, the pioneer missionary to the Gentile, was never easy for him nor for the few who accompanied him at various times and to many places. They were not always received with open arms, but rather with open and expressed hostility. It was often a test of their devotion to the crucified and Risen Lord whom they proclaimed. As St. Paul neared the end of his work, he wrote: "Only Luke is with me ... Take Mark, and bring him with thee."

St. Luke also endured great hardship for the cause of Christ. He preserved in writing his own knowledge of the life and times of Christ and the infant Church. He was Christ's faithful follower all the way, no matter what hostility he encountered. There were many incidents when the words of St. Paul rang clearly: "Only Luke is with me." Whenever you read the Gospel from St. Luke's Gospel, especially during these two months, remember the Gospel which he, the author, preached with his own life.

LIGHTEN THE BURDEN

Walking toward her car which was parked some distance away, a mother was carrying several parcels in her hand. By her side walked her small son. The child was weary. His little feet began to lag, and before long the wailing cry arose that he was tired and wanted to be carried.

They were still some distance from the parking lot, but the mother took one of the smaller parcels and gave it to the child.

"Mother is tired, too," she told him, "and you must help her get home. She is glad she has such a brave little man to take care of her and to help carry her bundles."

The little fellow straightened up. His step quickened. He reached for the parcel, saying stoutly: "I'll carry them all, Mother!" It was the old familiar lesson that our Father in Heaven is always teaching us: "Is the homeward way weary? Try to lighten another's burdens, and the loving service will smooth thine own path."

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CHUCKLE

Since it's that time of year, we wonder if you agree that the family that rakes together, aches together?

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PRESS FUND

A big Spasebo (Thank You) to all of you who help us to keep publishing "The Herald". Much of the work is volunteer, but costs like mail and printing must be met. We feel committed to keep publishing, and our rising subscription rate indicates the need exists.

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